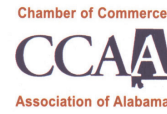


The following release was issued by Alabama Retail Association in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Revenue and the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERCHANTS STATEWIDE INVITED TO LEARN HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE AUGUST BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY

MONTGOMERY – June 30, 2006 – The Alabama Department of Revenue and the Alabama Retail Association in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama have organized a series of meetings throughout the state during the month of July to explain to businesses how the back-to-school sales tax holiday scheduled for Aug. 4-6 will work.

Any business that sells school supplies, books, clothing or computers and computer equipment would benefit from the information shared at these one-hour seminars. Any interested party is welcome.

After a brief introduction from a representative from the Alabama Retail Association, which championed the legislation that led to the sales tax holiday, a representative of the Alabama Department of Revenue will explain the regulations that will apply during this three-day sales tax holiday. There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience.

The first observance of the back-to-school sales tax holiday in Alabama begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4, and ends at midnight Sunday, Aug. 6th. It is important that Alabama businesses are well informed and prepared to handle this holiday, which should increase sales at their businesses. Retailers could even see double-digit increases from previous year sales as has been seen in other states with similar holidays.

STATEWIDE SCHEDULE FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES TAX SEMINARS

- AUBURN – 10 - 11 a.m. July 7th Auburn Chamber of Commerce, 714 E. Glenn Ave., Auburn. RSVP: 887-7011
- FORT PAYNE – 10 - 11 a.m. July 11th Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, 300 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne. RSVP: 256-845-2741
- VESTAVIA HILLS – 4 - 5 p.m. July 12th Dogwood Room, Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce, 1975 Merryvale Road, Vestavia Hills. RSVP: (205) 823-5011
- ALBERTVILLE – 8 a.m. July 13th Albertville Chamber of Commerce, 316 East Sand Mountain Drive, Albertville. RSVP: (256) 878-3821
- BOAZ – 2 p.m. July 13th Boaz Public Library, 407 Thomas Ave., Boaz. RSVP: (256) 593-8154
- GUNTERSVILLE – 4 p.m. July 13th Guntersville Town Hall, 314 Blount Ave. Guntersville.
- SELMA – 10 - 11 a.m. July 14th Carl C. Morgan Convention Center, 211 Washington St., Selma. RSVP: 334-875-7241
- TROY – 10 - 11 a.m. July 18th Pike County Economic Development Center, 100 Industrial Drive, Troy. RSVP: 334-566-2294
- ATMORE – 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. July 19th Annie's Community Cup, 127 N. Main St., Atmore. RSVP: 251-368-3305
- MONROEVILLE – 10 - 11 a.m. July 19th Monroeville City Hall, Council Chambers, 125 E. Claiborne St., Monroeville.
- PRATTVILLE – 10 - 11 a.m. July 20th Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce, 131 N. Court St., Prattville. RSVP: 334-365-7392
- MOBILE – 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. July 21st Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, McGowin Room, 451 Government St., Mobile. RSVP: 251-431-8607
- DEMOPOLIS – 11 a.m. - noon July 25th Demopolis Civic Center, 501 N. Commissioners Ave., Demopolis. RSVP: 334-289-0270
- HUNTSVILLE – 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. July 26th Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, 225 Church St., Huntsville.